Howland Wood - Curatorial

Le Blanc, John F.

[c/o William Hesslein
+ Associated Coin Co.

Boston, MA]

1920 - 1935

October 4th, 1920.

Mr. F. Le Blanc,
94 Fairmount Street,
Dorchester, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

This Society is listing for publication the various issues struck by the Mexcian Revolutionists, and we understand that you are interested in these pieces. Would it be asking too much if you could send us rubbings of what you have?

Thanking you in advance, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Curator.

(1)

Colonial Coins Dictionary $1.00

94 Fairmount St
Dorchester Mass
Oct. 6. 1920

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator
Am. numismatic Society
New York City

Dear Sir.

Yours of the 4th to hand and in reply, would say that I only have a few mexican Revolutionary coins but I will endeavor to furnish you with rubbings of the same. I take it, you mean, only those of 1910 up, or do you include earlier ones. In return, I would like to request some small favors of you. For instance, if I join the A.N.S. would I obtain a copy of those Colonials, you have recently listed. Secondly, have you any surplus numismatic literature, you would like to dispose of, at a moderate price? If so, send a list of those which you would really classify as of practical use, in attempts at classification of coins of certain countries etc or of certain periods. To give you an idea, I would say that I am a general collector with limited means (do not

assume limited ideas, because I realize good things are not given away in a grab bag), and have accumulated about seven thousand coins, ~~xxxxx~~ one thousand bills, and one hundred books since I have been at it. Furthermore they are practically without exception, fine or better. I don't collect junk, even if it is rarity 75 and the price is 5¢. They are principally, that is, the metal ones, of copper, small silver and the other minor metals. Gold and large size silver, require a bullion value first that makes more for commercial ideals than true numismatics. Now, to get back on the track. I am trying to be a classifier ~~of~~ coins, that is, to be able to tell you what a coin is, not what I think it is or what I'd suppose you couldn't guess otherwise, so if you can suggest anything superfluous that you have that might be helpful, I'd appreciate the favor very much. Also tell me about the society. Anything that I may have and any information I can give you of them are at your service any day. I mean, I'll furnish rubbings or data.

(2)

After you get through wading in card (1), I would like to call your attention to the list on the back of this one.

One thing, I would like to call your attention to, is a 2 centavo piece of the same size as the 1 centavo, dated 1915 of which, I enclose a rubbing and would say, I have never seen another nor have I seen it mentioned. It may be common to you but to me, vice versa. I will endeavor to be more brief in any future communications.

Very truly yours

J. F. LeBlanc

Aguascalientes		5c	1915
"		5c	1915 var
Chihuahua		5c	1915
"		10c	1915
"	Ejercito del norte	1p.	1915
Durango		5c	1914
Jalisco		1c	1915
Oaxaca	bust	3c	1915
"	"	5c	1915
"	"	10c	1915
"	"	1c	1915
Morelos		50c	1916
Zapata		1p	1915
"		2p	1914
Nuera Huerta		1p	1914
Parral		2c	1913
"		50c	1913
"		1p	1913

October 26th, 1920.

Mr. John F. Le Blanc,
94 Fairmount Street,
Dorchester, Mass.

Dear Mr. Le Blanc:-

Your favor of October 18th at hand, and I was very glad to hear from you. I will propose your name for membership in this Society at the next meeting of the Council.

I have gone over with much interest your rubbings of the Mexican coins, and I would very much appreciate it if you could send to me so that I could photograph them the two Aguas calientes pieces and the Morelos 50 centavo piece as well as the 5 centavo of Durango. This latter piece is a trifle better in condition than the one I already have. I am anxious to get nice photographs of these as I am illustrating every type. We do our own photographing right here in the building so that your pieces would be perfectly safe.

The best catalogues of Russian, Central American and East Indian and Ceylon coins that I can think of are certain sale catalogues. A very good Russian sale catalogue came out about ten years ago by Kube of Berlin. I will later try to send you the name of this catalogue.

About the best catalogue for South and Central American coins is the four volume catalogue issued by Weyl of Berlin in the seventies. These come up now and then in the sales, and sell from ten to fifteen dollars a set. Two other catalogues are fairly good, both sales catalogues, that can be picked up at times, namely, the 147th auction sale, 1899, by A. Weyl, Berlin. The Ulex Collection of Hamburg by Adolph Hess, Nachfolger, Frankfurt a. M., 1908.

About as good a catalogue of East Indian and Ceylon colonial coins, other than British colonials, is the Henry Grogan catalogue sold by J. Schulman, 1914.

If you are not already a subscriber, I certainly would advise you to subscribe to Spink's Numismatic Circular, issued by Messrs. Spink & Son, 17 & 18 Piccadilly, London, W. 1, England. It is gotten out six times a year at five shillings the year.

Very truly yours,

Curator.

94 Fairmount St
Dorchester Mass
Oct. 29. 1920

Mr. Howland Wood
New York City

Dear Sir

I enclose herewith the prices you mention, i.e. Aguascalientes 5 centavo. 2 var. Morelos 50¢ and Durango 5¢. If I obtain any others I will advise to that effect.

I also take the liberty to enclose four other pieces, and would like to get your opinion on them. The one with BK, seems to be a Sumatra token, that with (12) a Ceylon (I have a (24) and (96) also, that with cat and 4, I guess as a poker chip of some sort and finally the large one, I bought at auction as a Roman early bronze. Lot 750 of Elders last sale. Oct 8 + 9. 1920.

I have Grogan's catalogue and I also subscribe to Spink's, what I meant was Ceylon + Sumatra merchants cards. I wrote to Elder about this

Arrival
other bad news
bad

heavy bronze and expressed at the same time both ignorance of, and doubt as to this being genuine, and so far have received no answer. Miss Conroy has always referred me to you whenever I asked her for a good authority and Hesslein especially in this case said he would take your word on it. Would it be asking you too much, to have you express an opinion on it. I freely admit that I know very little as to counterfeit Romans.

I have quite a few counter-marked coins that I cannot place, either through your work on the West Indians or through some of Schulman's catalogues and any time you would like to see them or anything else I have, I would be pleased to send them on.

Very truly your

John F Sevslane

November 1st, 1920.

Mr. John F. Le Blanc,
94 Fairmount Street,
Dorchester, Mass.

Dear Mr. Le Blanc:-

Your package with the various pieces came Saturday, and I will photograph these Wednesday and return them to you in a few days.

I am writing this to tell you that the large Roman coin is a counterfeit. As it is quite heavy and would cost something in postage to return it to you, would you care to have me take it to Mr. Blair the next time I go in there? If so, you can write Blair that you have sent it to us, and we will return it to him. All of this, in case you are planning not to keep it.

When I return your coins, if you do not mind, I could send you some of our duplicate coins that might interest you. I am enclosing a list of them. Will you let me know about these. I will also then return the two or three other coins that you asked what they were.

If you care to send on the counterfeited coin that is puzzling you, I will see what I can do to help you out.

Very truly yours,

Curator.

Coins to be sent to John F. Le Blanc on approval

France	5 Pattern Coins.	$1.00
"	2 War Tokens. 5 & 10 centimes. Marseille . .	.35
Italy	1 Lira, 1908....	.25
"	2 varieties, 20 centissimi, @ 10¢ each . . .	.20
"	1 Fifty Centissimi,.	.15
China	2 pieces, 10 Cash & 10¢ each	.20
"	1 Kwang Hsu Kwang tung 20 cents.	.25
"	1 " " Hu Peh Prov. 10 cents	.15
Ceylon	1 Geo. Stewart & Co.	.75
"	2 pieces, St. Sebastian Mills, Set	1.20
"	1 piece, " " "	.60
"	1 " Parera, 19 cents.	.50
"	1 " Pilo Fernando, 4½ pence.	.60
"	1 " A. B. Scott & Co.	.60
Morocco	1 ¼ Rial	.35
"	1 piece, 1/10 Rial	.20
"	1 " 1/20 "	.15
India	4 Annas	.20
Portugal	3 pieces, 20 reis, 10 reis, 5 reis, set,. . . ,	.65
Poland	10 Fenigow, iron.	.30
Greece	2 pieces, 20 and 10 Lepta	.25
Hyderabad	2 pieces, ¼ Rupee, 2 Annas, ...	.35
Ionian Islands,	1 piece, 30 Lepta	.50
Congo Free States,	Set of 4 pieces.	.75
German East Africa Co.	1 piece, 1/4 Rupie	.25
Comores,	1 Proof piece, 5 Centimes, ...	1.00
Prince of Wales Island or Pulu Penang, 1810,.		.25
Italy (2) 5¢; Denmark 2 Ore; India ¼ Anna, 4 @ 10¢ each		.40
Coblenz 25 Pf.; Ionian Islands; Venezuela; 3 @ 15¢ each		.45
Germany 10 & 5 Pf.; Belgium 5 cent.; Switzerland 5 cent.		.40
Luxembourg 5 cent.; Peru 5 cent.; " 10 cent.		.60

Just send these

94 Fairmount St.
Dorchester Mass
Nov. 2. 192

Mr Howland Wood
New York City

Dear Sir.

Am in receipt of your of the 1st. and am very much obliged for the information. I would appreciate it very much if you would turn that price over to Mr. Elder. I don't suppose he will send me any catalogues any more or accept any of my bids. As to the list you sent me, I am returning it with those items marked that I would like to see, the others, I have. Regarding the counter marked ones. I shall send them over for your inspection shortly

as they seem to be out of the ordinary anytime you hear of the Fonrobert or that Russian sale catalogue at respectable prices, I would appreciate the information very much. Raymond mentioned a two volume Fonrobert (America No and So. only) at $20. but Schulman listed the whole "shooting match" at the same price (unfortunately they sold it before my order got there and Schulman is no "cheap bird" at that. My only regret is, that I am too much "demonetized" or I would amass a collection of numismatic specimens that would put some of these would be collectors with their $40,000. sales to shame

Personally, I think those that collect the evidences of a dissipated die from its birth to its final debauch and breaking-up, are

really "gumming the card" and not playing for the betterment of the game. Why should they be known as numismatists, (junk collectors for want of uncirculated rocks, rather) when they know only one type of coin, say the large cent and everything else is Greek to them. Very broadening effect, I should say, to be able to list ten cracks on obverse and six and a half on the reverse and then tell some one else that a 10 pf. austrian is a swedish dime or a Tonkinese coin is Chinese, etc.

Very truly yours

John F. St. Blanc.

Rudolf Kuhn, Berlin ~~SW 48~~ S.W. Wilhelmstr. 31

Cat Russian Collection
Gold & Platinum Money
Jan 22 1909

Russian Gold Silver & Copper Money
Herm. Hesse Vill.
Part I Nov 17 1910
Part II Feb 26 1912

November 10th, 1920.

Mr. John F. Le Blanc,
94 Fairmount Street,
Dorchester, Mass.

My dear Mr. Le Blanc:-

Please pardon the delay in answering your last letter, and returning the coins to you, but I have been away considerably the past week. I took the counterfeit Roman coin to Elder, and he has allowed you to return it. Probably he has notified you to that effect. I left the piece with Elder.

I am sending the Ceylon and French pattern coins that you wished to see as well as the coins you send me.

Very truly yours,

Curator.

RECEIPT FOR REGISTERED ARTICLE

No. 66041

Registered at the Post Office Indicated in Postmark

Class postage .....

Complete record of registered mail is kept at the post office, but the sender should write the name of the addressee on back hereof as an identification. Preserve and submit this receipt in case of inquiry.

POSTMASTER,

Per .....

Postmark clearly, showing date and office.

Form 3806.

05—6852

15th Street - P. O.

[illegible]

Life Exchange Co.

[illegible] P.M.

Mr Wood. Personal.

RECEIPT FOR REGISTERED ARTICLE

No. 466043

Registered at the Post Office Indicated in Postmark

Class postage _____

Complete record of registered mail is kept at the post office, but the sender should write the name of the addressee on back hereof as an identification. Preserve and submit this receipt in case of inquiry.

Postmark clearly, showing date and office.

POSTMASTER,

Form 3806. *Per* _____ 05—6852

15 pm St. O. O.

Le Blanc

My Word

Returning Coins

Mr. Brook

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Broadway between 155th and 156th Sts., New York

A REGULAR MEETING OF THIS SOCIETY

WILL BE HELD

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH, 1920

AT THREE (3:00) P.M.

REGULAR BUSINESS AND REPORTS WILL COME BEFORE THE MEMBERS.

SYDNEY P. NOE, SECRETARY.

November 23rd, 1920.

Mr. John F. Le Blanc,
94 Fairmount Street,
Dorchester, Mass.

Dear Mr. Le Blanc:-

I have just found out the names of the Russian catalogues I wrote you about the other day. They are as follows:-

Rudolf Kube, Berlin, C. V., Wilhelmstr. 31.

Cat. Russian Collection. Gold & Platinum Money. January 28, 1909.

Russian Gold, Silver & Copper Money. Herm. Hesse Collection.
Part I, November 17, 1910.
Part II, February 26, 1912.

Very truly yours,

Curator.

94 Fairmount St
Dorchester Mass.
Nov. 29. 1920

Howland Wood
New York City

Dear Sir,

Many thanks for favors. Am returning one of these pieces. Where can I obtain these catalogs. In regards to that Roman piece, my friend, a bit tardy, writes to save his "face." I enclose his brief note, and would ask you to destroy and forget it, after perusal. I only send it to call attention to the fact, that "irresponsible catalogues" exist as well as irresponsible bidders. The rules of the sales, should be headed "Caveat Emptor" or words to that effect.

Very truly yours
J. F. LeBlanc

Enc.

December 1st, 1920.

Mr. John F. Le Blanc,
94 Fairmount Street,
Dorchester, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor with change at hand, and the less said about Elder's letter the better. He dies hard. As you can well imagine we have had several tiffs in times past.

If nothing happens, I expect to be about three weeks in Boston from the 20th through New Year's, and will look you up when I get there.

Very truly yours,

Curator.

94 Fairmount St
Dorchester Mass
Dec 30. 1920

Dear Mr. [illegible]

When you are in town call on me at the Liberty Trust Co corner Court & Washington Sts you will find me in the rear of the bank, as unfortunately for everyone concerned, I am not an officer. When you see me, I will be able to say more. Do not call Saturdays or Mondays or between 11.30 and 1.- Your society did not send me that publication on [illegible] coins as yet.

[illegible]

[illegible]

P.S. [illegible] casts of [illegible] about [illegible] [illegible]

January 13, 1921

Mr. J. F. Le Blanc
94 Fairmont Street
Dorchester, Mass.

Dear Mr. Le Blanc:

I am now hoping to be in Boston at the beginning of this coming week, and will drop in to see you as I hope very shortly.

I trust you received Volume LIII of the Journal which I think was what you asked for in your letter.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E

March 30th, 1921

John F. Le Blanc, Esq.
94 Fairmount Street
Dorchester, Mass.

Dear Mr. Le Blanc:

I certainly owe you one and several apologies for not dropping you a line and thanking you for your courtesy to me while in Boston. I certainly enjoyed looking at your collection and making your acquaintance.

I have been completely tied up ever since I arrived back in New York with some exhibitions. Also I have been doing my best to find out what the Canadians might know about that nickle token with 'No Good' on the back. I have been unable to learn anything about it except that it is Canadian and was made for a slot machine.

I am returning the other coins; the U S on the Nova Constellatio has been removed. I was rather hoping that it was a new variety. The other pieces I have attributed for you and am returning all herewith.

I have not forgotten about your desire for some Transqueber coins. I expect some duplicates of these from England any time now and will try to get at them as soon as possible after their arrival.

Was there anything else I said I would do for you?

Very truly yours,

Curator

[illegible]
[illegible]

April 23rd, 1921

John F. Le Blanc, Esq.
94 Fairmount Street
Dorchester, Mass.

Dear Mr. Le Blanc:

I trust you received my last letter enclosing the coins I borrowed from you.

I have just got in that collection of Oriental coins and will be able to get at the Tranquebar pieces very soon. Was there anything else you especially wanted besides the Tranquebar?

There will undoubtedly be a great many duplicates in the Indian series and if from time to time you would like to have me send you on lots of these, I can do so.

I am enclosing herewith a letter from a friend of mine in Montreal with a suggestion as to the head on that Canadian 'No Good' piece.

Very truly yours,

Curator

EM/d
Enc.

94 Fairmount St
Dorchester Mass
May 5. 1921

My Dear Mr. Wood.

Just received your letter
[illegible] I had
[illegible] received the [illegible]
[illegible] before. I [illegible]
your kindness in attributing
[illegible] coins and wish I could be
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] I [illegible]
[illegible] "[illegible] the [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] series. [illegible]
[illegible] "[illegible] Marlbro" while
[illegible]
[illegible] I picked up two
[illegible] other day. a
[illegible]

Paper slipped
OAXACA is in
paper [illegible]

94 Fairmount St
Dorchester, Mass
Dec. 22. 1921

Dear Howland,

Thanks very much for the favor. Inclose herewith the necessary. You are entitled to the Turkish piece, as I have three now. I am sending along a few rubbings for your benefit and mine too. If you can think of anything to interest me, would say that I am in a receptive mood. A merry Christmas to you all.

Very truly yours

John J. McClane

December 27th, 1921

John F. Leblanc, Esq.
94 Fairmont Street
Dorchester, Mass.

Dear John:

Your letter with cheque at hand. Very many thanks. Also many thanks for the little Turkish coin; as yet I have not found out where it was issued. I am returning your rubbings.

I will bear you in mind if I find anything to interest you.

Since you were here, I have had very little time to look over any more of Valentine's coins.

Wishing you the Compliments of the Season, I beg to remain

Very truly yours,

Enc.

94 Fairmount St
Dorchester Mass
Jan 7. 1922

My dear Mr Wood.

Enclosed find check for due. How much do you think a copy of Schulman's first war catalog April 1916 LXV. would cost? Do you know if he is going to get out any new one in the near future? I have the other four and am thinking of completing the set to bind them. Best wishes for 1922.

Very truly yours
John H. Sloane

January 12th, 1922

John F. LeBlanc, Esq.
94 Fairmont Street
Dorchester, Mass.

Dear Mr. LeBlanc:

I beg to acknowledge your cheque for dues, and I have looked over our place here to see if we had the April, 1916, Schulman's catalogue. I find we have not. If Schulman has any copies, he would probably sell it for a gulden or so. Possibly, he might give you one.

I am enclosing a catalogue from my old friend Valentine as there may be something in this which might interest you. He is a good man with whom to keep in touch anyway.

Very truly yours,

Curator

[illegible]
[illegible]

94 Fairmount Street
Dorchester Mass
Mar. 27. 1922

Mr. Howland Wood
New York City

Dear Sir,

Am seeking information as usual. Would you mind advising me what is a good work on the copper coins (lead, also) of Annam, Tonkin and other Chinese of similar "make-up". Just would you judge the cost of "Blacksmiths" Wood Nos. 9. 10. 20. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 31. 32 and 36, would be? Are there any more of the Society monographs published? I have not seen one this year. Stamps enclosed for reply. Won't ask any more now but may be later. Have you found out what that Turkish piece was?

Very truly yours
John H. E. Blake

Many thanks.

March 30th, 1922

John F. LeBlanc, Esq.
94 Fairmont Street
Dorchester, Mass.

Dear Sir:

The best books on Annamese coins unfortunately cost from $10 to $20 a set; and as far as I know, can only be gotten in France unless perchance Wayte Raymond may have copies. They are -

Lacroix, Desire. Numismatic Annamite. Saignon. 1900. 2 Vols. 40 pl. Publications de L'école Francais d'extreme-orient. Vol.I, text. Vol.II, plates, oblong.

Schroeder, Albert. Annam, Etudes numismatiques. Paris, 1905. 2 Vols. Vol.I text. Vol.II, plates.

A book that can be had cheaper, when you can get it, is by Toda. "Annam and its Minor Currency. Journal North China Branch Royal Asiatic Society, N.S. Vol.XVII(1882) pt.1, pp. 41-220. Illus. Gives figures of 290 coins. This deals only in the copper and lead pieces.

A very good bibliography of Far Eastern books was published by the Essex Institute a few years ago. I am asking them to send you a copy gratis.

John T. Leslano, Esq. March 30th, 1922

- 2 -

We have been delayed in our publications for this year, but by this time you will have received No.11 French Orders and Decorations, and a copy of the Proceedings is being forwarded today.

So far I have not discovered where that little Turkish piece was issued.

Since I wrote on Blacksmiths tokens, I have not followed the market very closely on these. In fact, they come up so seldom that it is hard to place any good market value on them. Every-one of the numbers which you mention are rare pieces. All I can say is, that when you do pick one up, they will cost several dollars each. Nos. 19-22 have been listed for a long while and have always been considered rare. No.31 is almost impossible to get. No.32 I have seen three or four specimens, and possibly is about as easy to get as any you mention.

Very truly yours,

Curator

H.W./E

November 17th, 1923

John F. LeBlanc, Esq.
6 Woodlawn Avenue
Mattapan, Mass.

Dear Mr. LeBlanc:

I have just received a box of miscellaneous coins and medals, and I presume that they are a contribution to the Society. Please let me know if this is the case. If it is not so, I should be glad to be advised as to what you want done with them.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E

6 Woodlawn Ave
Mattapan Mass
Nov. 21. 1923

Howland Wood Esq
New York City

My Dear Mr. Wood,

Package sent you was a contribution such as it is. Would plaster and sulphur casts of medals etc made about 1800 according to the pieces of newspaper they were wrapped in, be welcome? also old catalogs, mehl's magazines, spinks etc? I thought as regards the latter that they might come in handy for bald spots in your series. The casts were originally in pairs but through rough handling many were broken therefore those that are left only give obverses or reverses whichever is the case. Figured that I might as well send such junk as I don't want or am not interested in, to you as you might find some variety that would serve to identify others you would have. What series of "Washingtons" have George standing on obverse and OHIO, PENN, ILL etc population, miles and "1855" on reverse?

Very truly yours

J. H. LeBlanc

also what kind of a Lincoln 1/2 dol size has cabe with a wide-brimmed hat, and coat or shirt spangled with stars 1861 on obverse UNION MUST & SHALL BE PRESERVED on reverse says I AM READY around bust.

November 30th, 1923.

Mr. John F. Le Blanc,
6 Woodlawn Avenue,
Mattapan, Mass.

Dear Mr. Le Blanc:

Your letter received and many thanks for the junk, as you call it. There are several pieces in the lot of which we can make good use.

We would be very glad to get the sulphur and plaster casts. We are forming a collection of these. We can also use the old catalogues, magazines, &c.

Right off hand I can not think of what series of Washington you mean with the different states on the back. Can you send me a rubbing?

The other medal with the broad brimmed hat is a campaign badge, and comes in several metals, and is not especially common. I think it belonged to the "Wide Awakes".

Yours very truly,

Curator.

6 Woodlawn Ave
Mattapan Mass
Dec. 21. 1923

Mr Howland Wood
New York City

Dear Mr Wood.

Suppose by this time you have received the pamphlets and casts. I was going to preface but forgot about it so let me know what it was. Am enclosing the rubbings. Have secured a 2nd br. of "FLACCILLA" and have since been told the price for a very fine one (which this is) is $5. Do that right? and reasonable? Hope the stuff was not too disappointing but I may send better next time, that is, in the future.

Very truly yours

J. H. E. Blake

December 28th, 1923

Mr. John Le Blanc
6 Woodlawn Avenue
Mattapan, Mass.

Dear Mr. Le Blanc:

Through the press of the Christmas rush I cannot remember whether I thanked you for sending on the photostats and plaster casts. We were very glad to get them, and among them there were a number of items which we did not have. The casts, for the most part, will come in very handy.

I really cannot tell you the value of the "Flaccilla", but I am not at all posted on ancient coins. However, I can certainly say that the piece is rare.

I know nothing of the Washington medals with States on the Reverse. We have three of these in brass - Ohio, Pennsylvania and Illinois. Presumably, there were others, but I doubt if all of the States at the time they were made were included, because we certainly should have seen and have had at our Museum New York and the New England States.

With the Compliments of the Season, I am,

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E

6 Woodlawn Avehue
Mattapan Mass
May 26 1924

My dear Mr Wood,

Have not seen a copy of the proceedings for 1923 and if there are any out, would like one to complete my series of monographs. What have you in the line of duplicates at present in the paper money line? Am interested in those before 1860 and especially those that have the following imprints;

Perkins Patent Steel Plate

New England Bank Note Co

If you have any interesting copper stuff, would be pleased to hear from you.

Very truly yours

H E Solano

May 28th, 1924

John F. LeBlanc, Esq.
6 Woodlawn Avenue
Mattapan, Mass.

Dear Mr. LeBlanc:

Replying to your letter of May 26th, the Society issued no Proceedings this year, owing to shortage of funds for publication.

We have no duplicate paper money at all; Infact, we get very little American paper money, and the few pieces we do receive never seem to be duplicates.

I may have some copper coins inthe autumn, but as I expect to be away the whole summer, I cannot get round to these until later.

Very truly yours,

Curator

6 Woodlawn Ave
Mattapan Mass
Dec 1. 1924

Mr Howland Wood
New York

My dear Mr. Wood.

Am sending some junk along for Christmas, and would ask as a favor, if you could tell me what the enclosed drawings of gold coins represent. No. 1. Udaipur. Mewar No. 2. Afghanistan No. 3. Akbar No. 4. Turkestan or Nepal. Those classifications are the nearest I can come. Suppose you are picking up a lot of duplicates if so would like to hear from you. Sent across and secured Andrews and Doughty, all expenses $2.25 also picking up bargains now and then

Very truly yours

F. LeBlanc

December 10th, 1924

John F. Le Blanc, Esq.
Mattapan, Mass.

Dear Mr. Le Blanc:

I certainly was glad to hear from you and delayed replying at once as I was hoping to acknowledge at the same time the coins which you said you were sending. But these have not yet materialized to date.

I have written on the sheet of rubbings what your fourrgold coins are. No. 2 is the best and the most interesting. Unfortunately, Nos. 3 and 4 are modern imitations.

Nothing especially worth while has turned up here in the way of duplicates for some time. The few we have had, I have sscld to members when they come to the Museum.

With the Compliments of the Season,

Very truly yours,

Curator

September 23rd, 1925

John F. LeBlanc, Esq.
6 Woodlawn Avenue
Mattapan, Mass.

Dear LeBlanc:

I note in Hesslein's catalogue of the sale to be held on the 25th and 26th, lot 674. This piece I should like to get. I am wondering if you are going to this sale; if not, will you please pass on this bid to someone else who is attending it, oelelse give it direct to Hesslein. I am willing to go to Twelve Dollars ($12.00) on this piece although I think it should sell for less. I did not send my bid to Hesslein as I thought it possible that he might take me to the limit.

Very truly yours,

Curator

6 Woodlawn Ave
Mattapan Mass
Sept 29 1925

Mr Howland Wood
New York City

My dear Mr Wood

Sorry that I could not comply with your wish of the 23rd as the piece in question went to $12.75 and could have gone higher if pushed. I had a bid of $4. on it before hearing from you and I was slightly embarassed as to what to do but decided in your favor as I am a good waiter. His nibs did not tell me who bought it, he being quite secretive as to customers, the only remark he made was that it was silver, instead of white metal. I never attend auction sales as I do not like to let my enthusiasm run away with me therefore I figure out the worth of a piece to me, divide it in halves and take a chance, results are one out of three which is good batting. Every time I bid the limit on what a coin is worth somebody else gets it so there you are. This is a rotten typewriter but as it was given to me and I can write Greek on it ΨΗΑΤ ΤΗΕ ΗΕΛΛ ΣΗΟΥΛΔ Ι ΧΑΡΕ

Ιφ τηερε ισ ἀν˜τηινγ ελσε τηατ Ι χαν δο φορ ˜ου λετ με κνο˜.

Forgot to switch the thing back again, meant to say, If there is anything else that I can do for you: let me know.

Don't forget my specialty is "Minor Metals"

i.e, Copper, Brass, Lead, Nickel, Pewter, etc (also paper and rubber and leather and wood) with the following exceptions, note the nicety of the distinctions, Foreign medals, European store cards, late American used for slot machines or with no town or date both to be missing at same time (if either one is on O.K).

Very truly yours

October 2nd, 1925

Mr. John F. LeBlanc
6 Woodlawn Avenue
Mattapan, Mass.

Dear Mr. LeBlanc:

I am sorry that you went to the trouble to try to secure the Bryan piece for me, and that you did not get it. Very many thanks just the same.

Very truly,

Curator

December 30th, 1925

John Le Blanc, Esq.
6 Woodlawn Avenue
Mattapan, Mass.

Dear Mr. LeBlanc:

Thank you very much indeed for your Christmas remembrance. There were a number of pieces which we are very glad to add to our Collections, and appreciate your kindness in supporting our Christmas cabinet.

With every good wish for the incoming year,

Very truly yours,

Curator

6 Woodlawn Avenue
Mattapan Mass
May 22 1926

My Dear Mr Wood,

Would be much obliged if you will tell me what works cover the coins from which the enclosed rubbings were taken.

Just added to my collection the following cards and thought that you would like to know about them.

1- struck over a Spanish 2 reale piece of 1780 probably Mexico mint. Inscription incused.

Fine pictures

Cheapest in the city
Jas S Bradley
Gilder & Frame
Maker
154 Wm St. N.Y.

& Mirrors

2- Incused on planchet of large cent size.

Obv Lybrad G Park or Park G Lybrad outside circle
House curved in centre

Rev Mt Vernon outside circle Ohio centre
1851 in exergue

Adams lists a Bradley struck over a U S quarter but does not give description or whether quarters were used regularly.

very truly yours

J F Le Blanc

May 28th, 1926

Mr. John F. LeBlanc
6 Woodlawn Avenue
Mattapan, Mass.

Dear Mr. LeBlanc:

Replying to your letter of May 22nd, as nearly as I can make out from your rubbings, coins Nos. 2 and 3 were issued during the Mameluke period in Egypt. No. 2, at any rate. No. 3 may possibly be Turkishan It is hard to tell from the rubbing. No.1, I am inclined to think, was issued by the Mongols in Persia.

No one book covers these coins. You may find similar pieces illustrated in the 10-volume work of Oriental coins, issued by the British Museum.

I am afraid I cannot help you out on the counterstamped pieces. I do know that when they did stamp on silver coins in this country, they were as apt to stamp on Spanish as on American pieces because both went side by side, virtually, up to the time of the Civil War.

Very truly yours,

Enc.

Curator

August 22nd, 1926

Mr. John F. LeBlanc
6 Woodlawn Avenue
Mattapan, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your note on the second notice for 1926 dues, I beg to apologize for overlooking your payment, which was properly recorded on our books.

Regretting having put you to the trouble of returning this second bill,

Very truly yours,

Publication Dept.

December 22, 1926

Mr. John F. Le Blanc,
6 Woodlawn Ave.,
Nattapan, Mass.

Dear Sir:

We received your customary Christmas donation for which the Society bids to extend to you its thanks.

We trust that we will see you during the coming year, and remain

Very truly yours,

HW:MB

Curator

1st February, 1928

Mr. John F. LeBlanc,
6 Woodlawn Avenue,
Mattapan, Mass.

Dear Mr. LeBlanc:

I can not remember whether I have written you in the past year concerning Mexican Revolutionary coins, but this is the information I want: I am getting out a new edition of my book, and have got enough new entries to more than double what I had before. I was wondering if you had any new pieces not mentioned in my previous book. If so, could you give me a rough indication or rubbing of what they are? I probably have them noted, but do not want to take a chance.

Very truly yours,

Curator

June 11, 1931.

John F. Le Blanc
18 Tremont Street
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I am herewith sending you a check for $11.25 and under separate cover I am returning the Ecuador, Ceylon, Georgia and Russian items. I would have kept the Russian one but find that this set should include the 10 Kopeck piece.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

June 11, 1931

John F. LeBlanc
18 Tremont St. Boston, Mass.

Mass. Tercentenary Medals			8 35
Azores		2.25	
Pasco		1.25	
Argentine		1.00	
		4.50	
	Less 20%	.90	
		3.60	3 60
			11 95

JOHN F. LE BLANC
18 TREMONT STREET
BOSTON, MASS.

RUSSIA	2	50
AZORES	2	25
GEORGIA	2	75
CEYLON		35
PASCO	1	25
ECUADOR		35
ARGENTINE	1	00
	10	45

[illegible] 8.35

V. JF

Mass Terrentinary [illegible]

[illegible]	[illegible]	
[illegible]	[illegible]	
[illegible]	[illegible]	
	[illegible]	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		[illegible]

Other Comm[illegible]

JOHN F. LE BLANC
18 TREMONT STREET
BOSTON, MASS.

Pond's List

6-	Holden	$1.
8-	Lee	1.
10-	Westwood	1.
15-	Bourne	.75
18-	Fitchburg	.75
19-	Haverhill	.75
20-	Pepperell	1.50
25-	Winthrop	.75
27-	Boston	1.25
29-	Trimont	.50
38-	Marlborough	.75
50-	Foxborough	1.

8 inch brass shell round plaque with imprint of obverse of No 1 stamped in black in centre sold to subscribers for $1.50 1.50

set of Newton in 3 finishes #35 9.

No 1 in gold sold for $5. 6.25

These have been offered and are subject to sale so if interested let me know quick

Thank you for check just received

June 25, 1931.

Mr. John F. Le Blanc
18 Tremont Street
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Please pardon me for not answering your letter of some days ago, but it got put to one side and overlooked. Considering the state of our finances at the present moment I do not think we would care for any of the Massachusetts Tercentenary Medals you wrote us about.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

JOHN F. LE BLANC
18 TREMONT STREET
BOSTON, MASS.

My Dear Mr Wood

Been looking over the Indian Peace medal book of the society and can not find a mention of an Andrew Jackson largest size (76) in pewter holed.

Am I cock-eyed or what have you. I see pewter medals are mentioned in one place of Van Buren also of Washington.

Is there a further discussion of these medals supplementary to this book?

Very truly yours,

JFL

address me 101 Tremont St Boston

May 26, 1932.

John F. LeBlanc
101 Tremont Street
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. LeBlanc:

Pewter Indian peace medals occasionally turn up of various presidents. We can find no records that they are official. We have one or two that have been worn by Indians. How they got them we do not know. I do not remember ever having s en one of Jackson. I have seen one or two of Jefferson and I think a Buchannan and have one of Johnson. If you have a Jackson pewter medal I should be glad to see it.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

May 31, 1932.

Mr. J. F. LeBlanc
101 Tremont St.
Boston, Mass.

Dear LeBlanc:

Shame on you! One who professes to be a perfectly good numismatist,and,above all - a dealer, to belittle a piece is absolutely beyond my comprehension. The idea of even considering that Indian peace medal of pewter or some inferior metal is beyond me. It is perfectly good silver. I am herewith returning it as we have it and consequently do not want it.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

ESTABLISHED 1895

WILLIAM HESSLEIN

PADDOCK BUILDING

101 TREMONT STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

WILL BUY ANYTHING
IN MY LINES

CABLE ADDRESS: "HESTER" BOSTON, MASS.

IMPORTER OF AND DEALER IN AMERICAN, CANADIAN AND FOREIGN COINS, FRACTIONAL CURRENCY. CAMEOS.

COLLECTIONS SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION
APPRAISEMENT MADE FOR EXECUTORS OF ESTATES AND COLLECTORS.

Friend Howland

That isn't the first time I've pulled a bloomer nor the last and as to having faith in experts, not me! I tested the darned thing and it showed that it was silver but when I started to ring the piece, I could not get it to sound like anything that I knew could not be anything but silver, so there you are. Likewise every one around here agreed hypocritically or sincerely that it was not silver, so there you are again. Sorry to disappoint you but after all of your years in the game, it wasn't the first time.

Besides I don't know what the real thing looks like these days especially gold silver or green-backs, and as to being a dealer, I've been on a vacation the last three years and don't know how to act like one, by now.

Is the society in funds now and can I offer anything or are you getting all the stuff from the big shots for the taking away. By the way, I'm so dense that when I look at those specialized books on cents, I can always prove that my piece never seems to agree 100%,

Best regards and thank you kindly

JFLeB

June 3, 1932.

Mr. John F. LeBlanc
101 Fremont Street
Boston, Mass.

Dear John:

One cannot always test the ringing powers of silver. If there is a slight crack in the piece it won't ring. I have had perfectly good quarters and half dollars that sounded as dead as a piece of liver. The Society is never in funds, or, that is, sufficient funds. At the present moment, we are decidedly out of funds, as we have been able to pick up a number of bargains lately.

Yes, I agree with you that it is a tough job to try to pick out die varieties of cents. We have a tougher job here, and that is we have a number of thousand Connecticut cents that some day have got to be looked over. That to me is about the worst thing imaginable.

Very truly yours,

H :JG

JOHN F. LE BLANC
101 ~~18~~ TREMONT STREET
BOSTON, MASS.

Aug 25 '32

My Dear Mr Wood

A party in town has the gold medal of which the rubbing is herewith enclosed. Apparently it was intended for other years as the date has the 18 struck and the 35 engraved in. Incused around the edge is "С ПЕТЕРБУРГСКОЕ УЧИЛИЩЕ ОДЕНА СВ ЕКАТЕРИНЫ", on the ribbon on reverse is "ПОСЕТИ ВИНОГРАДЪ ОЕИ". There is a dig at arrow and the gold content must be around $25. Are you interest- in this sort of thing?

very truly yours,

J. F. Le Blanc

September 5, 1938.

Mr. John F. LeBlanc
101 Tremont Street
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. LeBlanc:

Please pardon me for not answering your letter sooner but I have been away. Your medal is a Russian medal and there is absolutely no interest for those in this country. We would not be interested. If you still have it you might write to Mr. F. C. C. Boyd, 23" East 27th Street, New York City - he is the only one I know of who might care for it.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

101 Tremont St.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Interested in a 20,000 reis John V 1725 province of Minas?

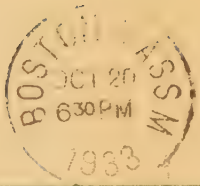
~~The coins that you offer would not be worth purchasing~~

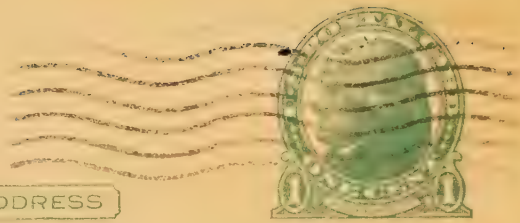
Very truly yours,

JFL

Associated Coin Co.

A:A





THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Howland Wood Curator

Am Numis Society

Broadway & 155th St
NEW YORK CITY

October 21, 1933.

Mr. John F. Leblanc
101 Tremont St.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

We are not interested in the 20,000 reis piece that you write about. For some unknown reason this seems to be comparatively common and I trust you did not pay very much over gold value for it.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

Boston, Mass., 22434 193

Mr. Howland Wood

New York City

William Hesslein

Paddock Building 101 Tremont Street

ALWAYS IN MARKET TO BUY ANYTHING IN MY LINE
COLLECTIONS BOUGHT OUTRIGHT FOR CASH

APPRAISALS FOR EXECUTORS AND ESTATES
MY SPECIALTY

ASSOCIATED COIN & STAMP CO.
SUCCESSORS TO WM. HESSLEIN

My Dear Howland

Where can I get any sort of a history on the 1853 half dollar without arrows, that is, magazine article or reference in an auction catalogue? Also where can one get a line on the 1818 engraved pattern cent in the line of history.

If you have the information on your finger tips, O K, but would not want to have you do any laborious consultation.

Don't you think it would be a good idea to have certain coins thrashed out in the magazine of the ANA or the ANS monographs, such as the 1853 no arrows half dollar, the 1913 Liberty head nickel, the 1894 S dime etc. Especially the possibilities of finding them in change. From my estimation of these and other items, it seems like quack medicine advertising to specify any premiums on them and practically every dealer mentions one or the other in their premium list.

Best regards for a Better Year

March 7, 1934.

Mr. John F. Leblanc
110 Tremont St.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Leblanc:

I have delayed answering your letter as I was trying to find out what has been actually published or shown about the 1853 half dollar. I even asked Wayte Raymond if he knew of a photograph of one. I know of two specimens, one that was in the Granberg collection and a very poor one in the Garrett collection. I will admit the ballyho about the 1913 nickel and the 1894 S dime is a nuisance and a bother. Publishing facts about these in one of our monographs or the Numismatist would do little good as these publications go to people that know about these coins. If you try to correct the impression in the public press it would only increase the inquiries and I think cause more people than ever to get excited about them.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

March 10, 1934.

Mr. John F. LeBlanc
110 Tremont Street
Boston, Mass.

Dear LeBlanc:

Have you any of those engraved coins of Napoleon III, either in silver or copper, done after the Franco-Prussian War, showing the emperor with a German helmet, yachting cap, etc.? If so, would you mind sending them to me on approval. I only wish the engraved ones, not the pieces struck from dies afterwards.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

Boston, Mass., 31834 193

Mr. Howland Wood

New York City

William Hesslein

Paddock Building 108 Tremont Street

ALWAYS IN MARKET TO BUY ANYTHING IN MY LINE APPRAISALS FOR EXECUTORS AND ESTATES
COLLECTIONS BOUGHT OUTRIGHT FOR CASH MY SPECIALTY

ASSOCIATED COIN & STAMP CO.
J. F. LE BLANC
SUCCESSORS TO WM. HESSLEIN

Regret no engraved Napoleon III on hand at present.

Re 1853 half no arrows. Elmer Sears says no genuine that he knows of and that some one in western part of this state had an 1853 O but there were doubts even on that. Also says the Granberg was not genuine and showed it to me as proof. For my own part, would have to see it in almost 'proof' condition to feel credulous.

Re 1913 Liberty head 5¢ and 1894 S dime. What I meant was to give a history of how they came to be'made'.

For instance, my impression was that a Mr Brown that worked in the mint engineered the nickel and tried for 10 years to dispose of them at the various conventions, and that the 1894 S dime was the result of a celebration at the Frisco mint whether re-opening, installation of new machinery or erection of new building I do not know but there were some guests there at the time who were presented with a sample dime as a souvenir. I do not believe that many numismatists have any clear idea on the subject and would say I was one of those in the fog. I could give you a string of plausible yarns that I have heard.

31434

Boston, Mass., _____ 193

Mr. Howland Wood (2)

ASSOCIATED COIN & STAMP CO.
J. F. LEE, INC.
SUCCESSORS TO WM. HESSLEIN

William Hesslein

Paddock Building 101 Tremont Street

ALWAYS IN MARKET TO BUY ANYTHING IN MY LINE
COLLECTIONS BOUGHT OUTRIGHT FOR CASH

APPRAISALS FOR EXECUTORS AND ESTATES
MY SPECIALTY

So could some very well-known advertisers. And the general public can tell you all about the government recalling this and that, from pieces containing more gold than necessary (even including copper cents), pieces that were gilded and passed as gold (witness the 1883 nickel), pieces that insulted some sect, country, etc, pieces that were held in the hands of the noted dead or passed out with their decease, pieces whose dies fell into the hands of Public Enemy No 1, 2, or 3, pieces that folded up when forgers made better ones or more valuable ones, etc etc etc etc.

Here's one on the 1894 S dime. 'The mint records lacked a round total so enough were struck to make even money. Check the total and test this one.

Not trying to add to your worries but think all posing as numismatists should try to have the same story to tell. It is really a perfection of the art and if these items were in the Greek and Roman category there would be numerous monographs trying to explain how Cleopatra came to earn them, or who stuck the poor lady, or trace the route she took in the taxi-cab when she saw they were incriminating and planted them in Caesar's back yard for the wife to ask questions.

Probably we could make quite a few converts to Numismatics

31434

Boston, Mass., _____ 193

Mr. Howland Wood (3)

William Hessler

Paddock Building 111 Tremont Street

ASSOCIATED COIN & STAMP CO.
J. F. LEBLANC
SUCCESSORS TO WM. HESSLER

ALWAYS IN MARKET TO BUY ANYTHING IN MY LINE
COLLECTIONS BOUGHT OUTRIGHT FOR CASH

APPRAISALS FOR EXECUTORS AND ESTATES
MY SPECIALTY

At any rate, a clearer view of the possibilities of obtaining various items would confine collectors to possibilities and not probabilities and they would not ask you to be on the look out for the last quarter of the moon, retouched die.

Before I finish this incoherent and prolonged screed, would like to know what has been done or what can be done with a clearing up of the early mint figures so that we can let these ships going to China, the Gold Coast, etc stay sunk and forgotten with the entire output for the year in which they sailed, laid at rest and in peace.

You can not make numismatists out of a disillusioned public especially a bunch that think there must be a whale of a profit in every coin they run into.

You have to teach them that certain items are collectible and that owing to a limitation of movement there must be more for the dealer than a quick turnover in a more easily replaceable article like coffee would allow.

Don't bother your head answering this but mull it over, at your leisure.

ASSOCIATED COIN & STAMP CO
101 Tremont St
Boston, Massachusetts

June 9, 1934

American Numismatic Society
Broadway and 156th Street
New York, New York

Dear Sirs:

An interesting question recently arose in a law suit here in Boston in which I was called upon to testify as an expert. The court had to decide whether one of the parties to the litigation had received an 1853 United States silver half dollar without arrows or rays.

I testified that from my experience and investigations it was my opinion that no such coin exists or was ever coined. Many dealers list it in their catalogues, however, and I believe it would be to the best interests of all numismatists to investigate the matter thoroughly and perhaps publish an article on the subject.

The year 1853 marked a transition in the design of some silver coins and in that year the half dollar was coined with the rays and arrows whereas some other coins such as the dimes, half dimes, quarters and dollars were coined without either arrows or rays.

I know that there is a rumor that such a half dollar does exist, but I have never seen a genuine one. All that I have seen or heard of are patently spurious and tampered with or their genuineness seriously doubted. I believe that any offers to buy, found in dealers' catalogues are made not because the dealers believe that such a coin exists, or have any expecta-

ASSOCIATED COIN & STAMP CO
101 Tremont St
Boston, Massachusetts

tion that they may buy one, but rather for the purpose of having their catalogues complete as to all coins which are rumored to exist.

I am making a survey on this question and want the candid opinion of the prominent coin dealers in the country on it. Accordingly, I am taking the liberty of enclosing a questionnaire which I wish you would answer and return to me. A self addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Very truly yours,

Enclosures 2

QUESTIONAIRE REGARDING UNITED STATES SILVER HALF DOLLARS OF 1853 WITH NO ARROWS AT THE DATE OR RAYS ABOUT THE EAGLE

Do you know of any government or mint document referring to these coins? Please name them.

Do you know of any books, pamphlets or articles containing any information about them? Please name them.

Have you ever bought or sold one which you believe to be genuine? If so from whom was it bought or to whom was it sold? What was its condition? Where is it now?

Have you ever seen one which you believed to be genuine? If so, please state when, where, the owner or possessor of it, its condition and the mint.

Have you ever seen one whose genuineness was doubtful?

Do you know of any one, collector or otherwise, who has one? If so, what is his name and address?

Have you ever seen any actual photographs of this coin? If so, can you locate any for me?

Have you ever seen any catalogues of auctions or private sales offering this coin for sale? If so, by whom were they issued?

Do you believe that one exists? Reasons.

Can you suggest anyone who might give me further information about this half dollar? If so, please list their names and addresses.

Please give any other information bearing on this coin which would be helpful.

How many of the following, rough estimate have you seen?

1853 half dime without arrows at date Phila. mint.....New Orleans.....
1853 dime without arrows at date Phila. mint.....New Orleans.....
1853 quarter without arrows at date Phila. mint.....New Orleans.....
1853 half dollar without arrows or rays Phila.mint.....New Orleans.....

Have you ever seen any 1853 DOLLAR WITH ARROWS? Can you think of any reason why they were not issued with arrows?

_____(date)

_____(name)

_____(address)

_____

August 6, 1934.

Mr. John F. LeBlanc
Associate Coin and Stamp Company
101 Tremont Street
Boston, Massachusetts.

Dear LeBlanc:

I have read with much interest what you have done on the 1853 half dollar. Our earliest mint report is 1857. Before that date the Director of the Mint reported to the President and not to the Treasurer of the United States. I, however, have gleaned from this report the following: For the year 1853 there were coined at the Philadelphia mint silver coins to the value of 7,852,571 dollars and in another part of the report it states that under the Act of February 21, 1853 there were coined 7,517,161 dollars, leaving 335,410 dollars that was coined before this act went into effect. At the New Orleans mint there was coined for 1853, 1,225,000 dollars in silver and under the Act of February 1853 there was coined 1,137,000 dollars, leaving 88,000 dollars worth of silver coined before this act. As the Act did not go into effect before June 1st, there was plenty of time to coin silver under the old heavier system. This may have all been done in the first month or so of the year. I have no other tables before me and no tables that show the number of coins of each denomination made after the Act went into effect.

It was also interesting to note that from 1860 on the mint reports quote the wrong figures for the coinage minted in 1853 under this Act. They quote total coinage for the whole year. In case you have not found what Woodward says concerning the Randall specimen I am quoting it in full. It is Lot 421 and the photograph shows a piece not badly worn, which sold for $180.00. This is what he says:

421 1853 No. 1; without arrows; Orleans mint. I consider this coin the gem of Mr. Randall's whole collection. It belongs to the regular series of United States coins, and is undoubtedly unique. I am well aware that other specimens are claimed to exist, but one which has long passed unchallenged is now admitted by the owner to be an alteration. The older collectors will remember that, in 1853, the par of silver surpassed that of gold. Silver was purchased at a premium and exported at a profit. Finding that the country was rapidly being drained of all its silver coin and bullion, the government retaining the old weight for Standard Dollars, reduced the weight of all its minor silver coinage,-the half dollar

being made to weigh 192 grains, and all the other coins in proportion. This change was marked by placing an arrow-point at the right and left of the date, and the eagle on the reverse was surrounded by a glory of rays; these peculiarities then appearing for the first time. The dimes and half dimes without the arrows and rays, though scarce, are not of infrequent occurrence. The quarter dollar, though occasionally found, is of excessive rarity. The discovery of the quarter dollar is due to an interesting incident which occurred in this way: A broker was weighing a quantity of silver coins; the weight was found to surpass, by a number of grains, the value of the coins by count. After repeatedly weighing and counting, a critical examination revealed the fact that one of the quarters weighed several grains more than any of the others, and gave to collectors a variety hitherto unknown. Diligent search, carefully continued for many years, has added to the piece first discovered possibly a dozen examples,-I think not more. Reverting to the half dollar: I may say this sample weighs 201 grains, 12 grains more than the alteration originally referred to, and 9 grains more than the coin authorized by the Act of 1853. This piece, though it has been circulated for a long time, is still in good condition, and may be fairly described as very fine for a coin so old and rare. In conclusion, I will give $5.00 to see a coin of the same description answering the test of weight. I will pay $100.00 for a duplicate of this piece, or I will pay $250.00 for an uncirculated example of the same.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

ESTABLISHED 1895

WILLIAM HESSLEIN

CAMBRIDGE BUILDING

101 TREMONT STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

WHO BUY ANYTHING
IN MY LINES

CABLE ADDRESS: "HESTER" BOSTON, MASS.

IMPORTER OF AND DEALER IN AMERICAN, CANADIAN AND FOREIGN COINS, FRACTIONAL CURRENCY. CAMEOS.

COLLECTIONS SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION APPRAISEMENT MADE FOR EXECUTORS OF ESTATES AND COLLECTORS.

ASSOCIATED COIN & STAMP CO.
J. F. LEBLANC
SUCCESSORS TO WM. HESSLEIN

Aug 8 1934

Howland Wood
New York City

Much obliged for that lengthy detail out of Woodward's Randall sale also for the 1857 Mint report features.

Do you think on the one long unchallenged, he meant the R C Davis specimen sold by Proskey?

Very amusing account of the quarter. I wonder what a painstaking person that broker was when upon weighing some coins he could spot that little rascal that did not go on the diet and was over-weight. Are we to assume that this broker bought only quarters at a time and all in the same state of preservation with the wear if any so evenly distributed amongst them that an overweight item spoiled the balance. I should say that that would go into the usual numismatic folk-lore.

Re the mint report. As I understand it, up and including 1856, the report is by calendar years and after by fiscal ones. The question is, Is that right? Or did some one juggle the fiscals to make calendars at that time. Also are the reports for deliveries to the public or actual mintage?

Taking your deductions we find as follows

total coinage Phila	$7,852,571.00	under the Act 2-21-53	$7,517,161.00
" " New Or	1,225,000.00	"	$1,137,000.00

leaving a balance to Phila of $335,410.
and New Or of 88,000.

Now there were Mais 46,110 dollars at Phila that presumably could be outside of the Act as their weights were not involved which would reduce the Phila balance to $289,300. The question is here, did that mean coinage from June 1, to Dec 31, 1853, or did it mean from July 1 to Dec 31. The mint reports always seem shaky to me and if they were operating fiscal years you could throw a balance back into 1852 or forward into 1854 according to what time of year it had reference to.

I have a mint report embodied in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury which states that the total silver coinage for 1853 up to Oct 31, was $6,996,255. This would leave $2,081,316 to be struck in the last two months of 1853. Now if we had a month by month report of 1853 we could tell whether this balance was O K or not and perhaps by that means testing the strength of character of mint reports as they run. Also notice that the Coin and bullion imported in 1853 was $4,201,382 and exported was $27,486,875. THE DIFFERENCE IS TWICE THE COINAGE AND MORE AND THE

ESTABLISHED 1895

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Howland Wood

Aug 8 1934

TOTAL PRODUCTION OF SILVER FROM 1792 to 1853(inclusive) in the UNITED STATES was only $700,000. Our silver coins at this rate were nearly all of foreign parentage as even with this small amount of local production, some of it got side-tracked before reaching the Mint.

Do you think the figures you had were June 1 to Dec 31 or could they have been July 1 for a starter or Oct 31 for a finish. Have you studied the thing any?

You realize of course that with around $400,000 dollars worth of coinage of coins without arrows that unless you can find where the government made a practice of melting down still useable pieces that there should be quite a few pieces to go around and that the without arrows coins should not be even scarce.

If I can get a photograph of each accredited half dollar I think I can get somewhere on this proposition and as it is I may startle you yet besides amusing you. I believe that I have hit the nail on the head and perhaps if you are going to the convention you may get an inkling of what I have in mind.

In 1881, the 1853 half dollar without arrows popped up with two holders, Haseltine and Randall. Now if Haseltine sold his to Davis Proskey's decision would have knocked it out, anyway Beaton and Adams who reflected the public opinion in 1902 and 1911, allowed only for Randall's thereby making Haseltine's description of a genuine 1853 half without arrows WRONG unless he listed Randall's instead of his own.

The foregoing coincides with the fact that in 1879 neither Haseltine nor Scott listed the half so you can place the discovery of this rare bird about 1880 with a remarkably low price offered in 1885 of $180 showing some suspicion lingering around.

Does the Woodward photograph show the same peculiarities as listed by Beistle?

Hoping you have had time to read this, I remain,

yours for any kind of facts

JFL

ASSOCIATED COIN & STAMP CO
101 Tremont St
Boston, Massachusetts 122634

My Dear Mr Wood

Have you found out anything about the figures for 1853? Or any information relative to the without arrows series?

Needless to say, nothing has come my way but expect a big break some day when I locate some contemporary literature.

Hope you have had a nice holiday and trust I will hit upon something to make some dough on in the near future so that I can sit back and enjoy the festivities myself sometime.

I still regard it as odd that Stickney never produced one of those babies although I believe his main connections with the mint was in the forties and that those who were in there at the time of the 1804 dollar were not officiating in 1853.

Best regards

JFL

Dedember 27, 1934.

Mr. John F. LeBlanc
101 Tremont St.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. LeBlanc:

I have found out nothing more about the 1853 half dollars. I thought I might be able to do some figuring by the process of elimination but I could work out nothing definite. We unfortunately do not have the mint report for the year 1853, the only one lacking. Your check received. You had already paid for 1933 so this cancels your 1934 bill. With best regards, I remain

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

Feb 13 1935

My Dear HW

In a report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the state of the Finances, 1852-3 Senate 33d Congress 1st Session Ex Doc No 2 I find the following extracts

Value of the Silver Coinage (from reports of the operations of the Mint) (1792 to Oct 31 1853 including the branch) (mints from start 1838)

1852	999,410.00	to Dec 31st
1853	6,996,255.00	to Oct 31st

might this not account for the difference you quoted me of $335,410 and $88,000 NOrleans as I seem to make the 1852 total according to present figures only $640,514.30 or am I wrong?

"It was hoped that the accumulation in the treasury would exercise a beneficial restraint upon importations and speculative credit enterprises and bring the business of the country into a safe and wholesome condition yet under the apprehension that a panic might arise from a too stringent operation of the treasury it was determined to make advances to the mint for the purchase of silver FOR THE NEW COINAGE and to enable the mint to pay promptly and in advance of coinage for gold bullion. The amount of money on deposite in the mint on the 4th of March was $6,098,220 and was increased by the 1st of July to $8,517,890.05 and was on the 25th of November 1853 $11,451,039.30. This enabled the mint to give gold which circulated as money FOR SILVER THAT WAS OUT OF CIRCULATION BECAUSE OF THE PREMIUM UPON IT; and for gold bullion that could not circulate as money until coined."

"The table exhibiting the operations of the mint also accompanies this report. It shows the entire coinage to 31st October last to have been $370,008,192.50; the gold coinage from the 1st January to the 31st October of the year 1853 to have been $46,998,945.60, and the silver coinage $6,996,225. and proves an active and growing demand for gold and silver as a currency for actual use whilst the imports of gold and silver INCLUDING WHAT IS BROUGHT TO THE ATLANTIC FROM CALIFORNIA without estimating for that brought in by emigrants compared with the exports of gold and silver prove that within four years the large amount of $135,972,095.73 has been added to the gold and silver coin remaining in the country. Should this increase continue for but a short term of years this country will be able to dispense with banks of issue and their attendant evils and have the gold and silver currency contemplated by the constitution. The operations of the mint and its branches for the past year show a very favorable result AND THE RECOINAGE OF SILVER has in many places REMOVED THE INCONVENIENCE ARISING FROM SMALL BANK NOTES AND WANT OF CHANGE. It may reasonably be expectedthat the supply in the course of a few years will be ample and extended to every section of the country."

"By your orders $130,000 of the new silver coinage authorized BY THE LAST CONGRESS have been transferred from the mint at Philadelphia to this office with instructions to exchange the same in reasonable amounts FOR COINS OF LARGER DENOMINATIONS. This operation has been most sensibly and beneficially felt here and in parts of Maryland and Virginia. As evidence of the fact and of the great need of the community had for small coin there is now only $50,000 of that small coin in the treasury, $80,000 thereof having been exchanged for gold."

HW cont

I hope you do not mind me writing to you but somehow or other I feel that you are somewhat interested yourself in the matter as a student of numismatics really should be besides I can get nowhere with any of the others.

Do not know why the lack of interest unless it is indifference, pique, lack of knowledge or what have you. Perhaps they are studying up privately trying to prepare a bomb-shell to explode in my face.

The extracts given you from this report I mention are marked by me for spelling, intention, etc. Would like to call your attention to the 60¢ in the gold and the 3¢ in the silver figures of the second quotation. I can see where the 3¢ could be one of the little fish scales but the 60¢ in gold must include foreign coin at exchange rates or did they circulate gold coins at the wear and tear value?

As usual these reports are so much hash, in fact, the biggest part of this report is customs and light-houses or some sort of marine propositions. When I have time I am going to try to reconcile the mint figures here with some later reports.

Looked in Dickinson's and found in the second edition, some curious statements. In 1853 he lists the half dollar of this emission, (referring to a half with arrows at date and rays around eagle) as being of two types and three varieties. The quarter, dime, half dime and 3¢ are listed only one type but have varieties. He has earlier pieces in varieties so that excludes that term (making it refer to positions of leaves, draperies etc) now as to type, if he was referring to with and without arrows he certainly would have listed the dime and half dime, so that convinces me he was referring to the period of halves with arrows. That would cover the 1853 with arrows and rays, and the 1854 and 1855 with arrows but no rays. As to figures of issue, he has 1852 and 1853 all mixed up. Have not gone over the rest so do not know how tough they are.

Would you mind telling me what you think of the situation as it stands now. For instance, no one has prepared any furious outburst of public indignation or private either, no one has come forward with any definite authenticated statement of this half dollar being issued, every thing points to the government marking time while trying to solve a serious problem of currency drainage, owners of prized specimens do not read the Numismatist nor if they do, do not offer even photographs of them for inspection nor write pointed letters in icy phraseology showing where I am all wrong nor HAVE ANY OF THE OLD MASTERS BEEN NOTED FOR OWNING A SPECIMEN, KNOWING OF ONE,OR TRYING TO SWAP FOR ONE.

The whole issue of 1853 without arrows looks fishy right now to me and I would not be surprised to discover that they all might have been made later than 1853 to satisfy the cravings of hungry numismatists of the IMPERFORATE SHEET PHILATELISTS brand. I have to determine yet when the first appearance of each denomination occured in the quarter, dime and half dime. So far, I have the quarter in 1860 and the others in 1859 with the half in 1881.

Best Regards

JFL